

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, March 17, 2008**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting room on Monday, March 17, 2008 at the special time of 6:30 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Bernie Zemen, Mark A. Herak, Dan Vassar, Brian Novak, and Konnie Kuiper, were present. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Also present:

Alex M. Brown, CPRP, Parks and Recreation Superintendent was present.

Tom Arnold, Ed Dabrowski, Carlos Aburto, Dennis Tobin, and Larry Vassar of the Park and Recreation Board; Lu Anne Jurczak of the Highland School Board of Trustees, and Laurel Roach of the Special Events Advisory Council were also present.

Daniel Atilano, AIA and an associate from BCA Burnidge Cassell Associates (Architects), Inc were also present.

Tom Brown of Koester and Brown Insurance was also present.

William R. Timmer, CFOD, Fire Chief was also present, joining the meeting later in progress.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. Mr. Atilano of Burnidge Cassell Associates, made a general presentation to the Town Council and the Park and Recreation Board regarding the suggested alternatives for a capital plan as part of the Park Master Plan. The presentation was informed by a recent outreach and public comment event conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department in which the public was allowed to review proposed capital plans and indicate preferences. Burnidge Cassell was commissioned by the Parks and Recreation Department to develop some designs and plans related to rehabilitation of Lincoln Center as well as some additions or modifications to the center as part of an on-going capital plan. Bound reports dated March 17, 2008 regarding the plans and proposals were distributed to the Town Council.

Informal discussion between the Town Council, the Park and Recreation Board and Mr. Atilano ensued. The discussion included a discussion on the merits and affordability of constructing an indoor swimming pool as part of the capital plans for Lincoln Center. Further, the discussion included a general survey of the phases proposed for the construction and renovation for the Lincoln Community Center. The discussion included a survey of the proposals, which offered a possible demolition of the 1947 and 1950 wings or sections of the Lincoln community center, the remodeling of the current main entrance, and possible construction of a "fitness center" and elimination of space that could be leased for children day care operations. This discussion also included remarks about the loss of revenue generating activities, particular leasehold revenues generated from the daycare operators, as well as the prospects for new revenue generation associated with some of the proposed remodeling including the possible construction of a fitness center.

Further, discussions included possible impacts on operating costs associated with the proposed new construction and remodeling as well as staff adequacy for maintenance of the current facilities.

Mr. Atilano of Burnidge Cassell Associates also suggested that a review of a design for a community center in Crestwood, Illinois may be helpful as it was, he noted, developed with similar architectural constraints.

2. The Town Council and Tom Brown of Koester and Brown discussed the work product from his broker inquiries regarding the group dental plans for the municipal workforce. Mr. Brown represented that the current underwriter, Guardian Associates, presented a proposal for renewal at an increase over the current premiums. He further reported that United Health Care, the current underwriter of the group health insurance, proposed a group dental plan with premiums lower than the current premiums. He still further reported that the discount proposed would be held for two years for the municipality. He still further reported that United Health Care would carryover 100% of the previously experienced out-of-pocket costs. Mr. Brown represented that the United Health Care proposal matched with the current Guardian Plan in nearly every respect. He further recommended that the municipality curtail offering both a PPO/Traditional Dental Plan and an DMO plan, and simply offer a single PPO/Traditional plan. It was noted that eliminating the DMO would affect 6 workers.

The Town Council expressed its desire to that information be provided to the workforce regarding the possible change. It was noted that the dental plans were to be renewed on March 1.

3. Mr. Ronald Johnson, of DT Concessions, 8144 Hohman Avenue, Munster, requested permission to speak to the Town Council about the possibility that his business, soft serve ice cream, would not be admitted as one of the vendors at the annual Independence Day festival at Main Square. He noted that he would appeal to the Special Events Advisory Committee. Mr. Johnson offered a brief explanation of the history associated with his entry into the event. He noted further that concerns about the electrical needs for his vending apparatus/trailer were not incompatible with the electrical service at the Main Square. Mr. Johnson then presented the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer with a prepared, compiled written document to further support his concerns. Mr. Johnson departed at the conclusion of this discussion.
4. The Town Council discussed the possible modifications to the structure of the Special Events Advisory Committee. The discussion included moving from its current 7 to 11 and keeping the several terms staggered as the presently provided in the existing ordinance.
5. The Town Council discussed with the Clerk-Treasurer a proposed draft of a policy statement and an enrollment form to be used to build a pool of residents interested in being appointed to a board or commission. The form was reviewed. The Town Council discussed informally the remaining appointments yet pending for 2008.
6. The Town Council, the Clerk-Treasurer and William Timmer, Fire Chief, discussed the Chief's request to modify the wage and salary ordinance to permit maintenance and special details to be performed by Highland firefighters at a rate equal to the pay rate established for firefighting and training. The discussion also included a brief review of elements of Chapter 50 which is the Fire Department Chapter in the Highland Municipal Code, and the merits of making technical amendments to bring some provisions up to date and to make others consistent with current practices, particularly a move to eliminate language which limits training to 50 hours for each firefighter annually.
7. The Town Council and the Fire Chief further discussed the status of a regional grant application that would provide funds to possibly replace Engine 14 and to permit the installation of Opticom® traffic light controlling devices for the Town of Highland and the Town of Griffith. The Fire Chief departed at the conclusion of this discussion.
8. The Town Council briefly discussed the prospective merits of possibility regulating garage sales, perhaps requiring licenses for their operation, but particularly regulating the time,

place and manner of certain signs promoting these sales. No consensus was evident at the conclusion of the discussion.

There were no further discussions or any further matters before the Town Council. The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland of **Monday, March 17, 2008** was adjourned at 9:31 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/CMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer